(v) Ginger; (vi) Turmeric; (vii) Coriander; (viii) Cumin; (ix) Celery; (x) Fennel; (xi) Fenugreek; (xii) other spices include aniseed, ajwan seed, dillseed etc., (xiii) garlic; (xiv) spices including tamarind, asafoetida, cinnamon, cassia, kokam, saffron etc.; (xv) curry power; (xvi) mint oil; (xvii) spice oils and oldeoresins.

(b) Government has not fixed spiece-wise targets for exports. However, the export projections made by the Planning Commission for the spices as a whole for each year of the 8th Plan period (at 1991-92 prices) and actual exports (at nominal prices) are given below :

(Rs. Crores)

Year	Export Projections (At 1991-92 prices)	Exports (at Nominal prices)
1992-93	384	418.64
1993-94	398	547.25
1994-95	414	607.34
1995-96	431	785.89
1996-97	447	—

(c) Some of the steps taken to enhance production/ productivity and exports of spices include :

(I) Production/Productivity

(i) Supply of planting material of high yielding variety; (ii) establishment of demonstration plots; (iii) adoption of prophylatic plant protection measures against quick wilt; (iv) supply of mini kits; (v) area expansion; (vi) distribution of plant protection equipment; and (vii) soil conservation measures.

(II) Exports

Apart from the general trade policy reforms, the steps taken to enhance export of spices include abolition of cess with effect from 1.8.1996 on export of pepper (except green pepper in brine), saffron, cardamom and spice oils and oleoresins to make them price competitive in international markets brand promotion scheme like "Logo Promotion", grant of "Spice House Certificate", product development to meet international needs and participation in international fairs and arranging buyer-seller meets.

Export of Human Material

5738. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Indian genetic resources sold to US on the sly" appearing in the "Sunday Observer" dated August 11-17, 1996;

(b) whether the Government are aware that United States based Human Genome Deversity Project is procuring human genetic resources from indigenous Indian communities through several hospitals of the country :

(c) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken to stop or regulate the exports of human material and press the US to enter into a specific agreement on the transfer of technology and other economic benefits ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have no knowledge of this. However, there is a Health Ministry Screening Committee on research proposals involving foreign collaboration/assistance which permits the restricted transfer of biological materials abroad under certain circumstances and conditions for purpose of research only.

(c) and (d). Does not arise.

Provident Fund

5739. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any suggestion has been made by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry that Government should and set aside a part of the provident fund for investment in the capital market to induct liquidity into the system;

(b) whether the large amount of funds presently blocked in Government securities are not yielding adequate returns to the provident fund subscribers;

(c) if so, the details regarding the suggestion have been placed before the Government's consideration ; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No suggestion has been received from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce in this regard.

(b) Provident Fund moneys are required to be invested according to an Investment Pattern laid down by Government which is designed to provide risk free, reasonable and tax-free return.

(c) and (d). Does not arise.

Performance of L.I.C.

5740. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of turnover of Life Insurance Corporation during each of the last three years till date in Delhi;

(b) the investment made in Delhi during the said period in comparison to the above;